

From: darenw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 1:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am aware that the DOJ is seeking input from the public regarding the Microsoft Settlement. About two months ago I bought a new notebook computer. It came with Windows XP. I asked the salesman if it could run BeOS or Linux, which I strongly prefer. Especially, I asked him if the manufacturer's or retailer's warranties and service plans would remain in full force, or if changing operating systems would void part or all of these warranties. I had the impression that the salesman didn't know anything about these "alternative" operating systems, or what effect they'd have on the warranties offered.

I bought the machine anyway, because I did my homework already, and knew it could run Linux. Luckily, it also runs BeOS just fine as long as one special setting is made upon bootup. It runs faster than similar computers that have Windows XP loaded, and is very close in speed to Linux, given the same hardware.

Everywhere I go, everyone know about windows, and everyone complains about windows. The few people who are not technical experts and have seen BeOS like it, and wonder why it isn't better known. The fact the Be Inc. has closed does not reduce my preference for it, or slow down the production of software from those who also prefer it.

What I'd like to see as a result of the Microsoft Settlement is that I can walk into a retailer that carries computers, and see BeOS running demo software, or to walk into a cyber-cafe and see that their computers are running Linux or FreeBSD to offer web surfing and other services. People should no longer think Computer = Windows = unreliable, but know that there are choices and be free from the effects of FUD (Fear Uncertainty and Doubt) planted in the public forum by Microsoft and its allies. Also, no manufacturer, VAR or retailer should feel any pressure to offer only Windows, or have any constraints however indirect from Microsoft, as to what operating system may be pre-installed or user-installed.

Thank you for your attention.

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